

**BARNSLEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**North East Area Council Meeting:  
June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

**Agenda Item: 7**

**Report of North East Area  
Council Manager**

**Review of the North East Area Council Priorities for 2015 / 2016  
and Proposals for Future Commissions**

**1. Purpose of the Report**

1.1 The purpose of this Report is to:

- Note the proposals discussed at a series of workshops held to consider and review the North East Area Council Priorities for 2015 / 2016.
- To approve the proposals discussed and considered at the workshops with regard to future Commissions.
- To note the current and projected financial position with regard to spend.

**2. Recommendations**

**2.1 That the Environment, Economy and Regeneration, Health and Wellbeing and Young People should remain the Key Priorities, and areas of focus, for the North East Area Council in 2015 / 2016.**

**2.2 That the Members note the financial position of the North East Area Council to date, and the funding available to carry forward into 2015 / 2016 due to unallocated funds available, and the slippage of spend in 2014 / 2015, as outlined in Appendix One.**

**2.3 Members agree to develop and take forward the projects identified at the individual Workshops for each Priority as per their estimated costs, in the context of the available North East Area Council budget, as outlined in Appendix Two.**

**2.4 That a recommendation be tabled to the North East Area Council to increase the Youth Development Fund funding to a maximum of £100,000, and that projects requesting funding between £1,000 and £20,000 should be considered by the Youth Development Panel.**

2.5 That the continuation of the Luncheon Clubs, at an estimated cost of £20,000 per annum, will be determined following on from the analysis of the results of a consultation survey to be carried out in the summer.

2.6 That the Members consider the option to delegate a further £20,000 from the Area Council budgets to the Ward Alliances for 2015 / 2016. There is an option to leave this decision in abeyance until a later date.

### 3. **Background**

3.1 In October 2013, the North East Area Council agreed the following priorities. These priorities had emerged following a series of workshops at which the North East Councillors had analysed a range of statistical data from a variety of sources:

- The Environment
- Economy and Regeneration
- Health and Wellbeing
- Young People

3.2 During April 2015 the following workshops were held and a range of statistical information, consultation data and local intelligence gathered from the elected Members, with regard to these priorities, was considered.

- |                            |           |
|----------------------------|-----------|
| • Health and Wellbeing     | 22.4.2015 |
| • The Environment          | 27.4.2015 |
| • Economy and Regeneration | 27.4.2015 |
| • Young People             | 30.4.2015 |

The progress of the current commissioned projects relevant to the previously agreed priorities was also reviewed at these meetings.

The feedback from these workshops was then circulated to the Councillors for their information and consideration. A further workshop with all the Ward Councillors to discuss the feedback from the above meetings was held on 13.5.2015.

### 4. **Priority Setting**

4.1 It was unanimously agreed by the Councillors that the Key Priorities and areas of focus for the North East Area Council should remain as:

- The Environment,
- Economy and Regeneration,
- Health and Wellbeing
- Young People

4.2 It was agreed that these priorities would help to progress the Corporate Vision of:

- Growing the economy
- Improving people's potential and achievement
- Changing the relationship between the Council and the community

4.3 The Councillor's agreed that any commissioned activities should underpin the following Social Value Objectives:

- Growing the Economy
- Activities that will improve the Quality of Life, and Life Chances, of local people
- Building Resilient Communities

4.4 The Councillors also agreed the underpinning principle to:

- Strive to promote and encourage Community Cohesion and integration in all projects that the North East Area Council is involved in.

## 5. **Current Financial Position**

5.1 Based on updated information relating to the five North East Area Council procured services and the Youth Development Grant fund, Appendix 1 provides a revised position statement on North East Area Council funding allocations and projected expenditure over the next three years.

5.2 As noted in previous meetings, Councillors should be aware that these are still indicative projections and may be subject to change depending on the payment schedules submitted and agreed as part of the ongoing procurement and contract management processes.

5.3 With regard to the Environmental Enforcement Project the number of Fixed Penalty Notices issued to 29.03.2015 was 225. The Income received to 29.03.2015 was £8,964.00, and the balance outstanding in relation to 2014 / 2015 Fixed Penalty Notices is £6,061.00.

## 6. **The Environment**

After careful consideration of the feedback from the Environment Workshop where both statistical and anecdotal data was considered and current projects were reviewed, Councillor Charles Wraith, the Spokesperson for this Priority advised the following potential projects to be taken forward:

### 6.1 **Continuation of the Environmental Enforcement Project**

To extend the existing Kingdom Security contract to 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2016 and the associated Integrated Enforcement SLA with BMBC's Community Safety and Enforcement Service.

## **6.2 Stage 2 Apprenticeships – Hot Spot Areas**

To commission two Stage 2 Apprenticeship schemes following on from the Stage 1 scheme provided with the North East Environment Teams. This would allow the apprentices to further their knowledge both academically and practically. The apprentices would work with both the North East Environment Teams helping to address hot spot areas, and learning different skills and a flexibility of approach to team working. The apprentices would also further their Health and Safety qualifications to help them increase their opportunities for employment.

## **6.3 Estate Management Initiative**

To procuring a service that will help to address issues associated with private rented housing stock. It is proposed that a Private Sector Service Level Agreement be drawn up for an Estate Management Officer to manage areas across the four Wards where there are difficulties are being experienced with private rented housing stock.

## **7. Economy and Regeneration**

After careful consideration of the feedback from the Environment Workshop where both statistical and anecdotal data was considered, and current projects were reviewed, Councillor Charles Wraith, the Spokesperson for this Priority advised the following potential projects to be taken forward:

### **7.1 `Home Grown` Apprenticeship Initiative**

To develop an initiative that would commission a Horticultural Apprenticeship scheme, which would work closely with Parks Services in the local area. There would be one Supervisor and four apprentices, and the scheme would run for 12 months. The apprentices would also learn about flowers, shrubs, shrub bed maintenance, keeping the path ways edged and clear of detritus, and Health and Safety with regard to the maintenance of play equipment in the Park. The apprentices would be involved in Love Where You Live Volunteering initiatives, and other Social Action activities in the Parks such as the School Holiday activities organised through the Ward Alliances. The apprentices would link in with any Lets Grow initiatives in the local communities. It would also be possible for local people to gain work experience through this initiative.

## **8 Health and Wellbeing**

After careful consideration of the feedback from the Environment Workshop where both statistical and anecdotal data were considered, and current projects were reviewed, Councillor Margaret Sheard, the Spokesperson for this Priority advised the following potential projects to be taken forward:

### **8.1 Luncheon Clubs**

- It is recommended that the continuation of the Luncheon Clubs at an estimated cost of £20,000 per annum, will be determined following on from the analysis of the results of a consultation survey to be scheduled in June and July 2015 / 2016.

### **8.2 Fit Reds Programme**

Following on from the successful results Fit Reds healthy lifestyle programme for men 35 and over which had been piloted through the Ward Alliances in Royston and Cudworth, to commission a separate Fit Reds programme for men and women. The Councillors agreed that this project should be worked up with a view to supporting health and fitness programmes in each of the four Wards of the Area Council.

### **8.3 Let's Grow – Allotment project**

The Councillors agreed to commission a pilot project using derelict allotment sites in Great Houghton to encourage volunteers to bring these sites back into use for the wider community. This initiative would build on community cohesion in the Village; people would gain transferable skills, and learn the sometimes forgotten skills as to how and where food is produced. The project would promote healthy eating and care for the environment and would be open to all people who live and work in the community. The project would be intergenerational as children, families, and elderly people would all have the opportunity to work together.

## **9. Young People**

After careful consideration of the feedback from the Environment Workshop where both statistical and anecdotal data was considered, and current projects were reviewed, Councillor Steve Green, the Spokesperson for this Priority advised the following potential projects to be taken forward:

Following on from the success of the Youth Development Fund to date, the Councillors discussed the Terms of Reference and Guidance Notes for the North East Area Council Youth Development Fund.

It was agreed that a Recommendation be tabled to the next North East Area Council meeting to increase the Youth Development Fund funding to a maximum of £100,000, and that projects requesting funding between £1,000 and £20,000 would be considered.

### **9.1 Dance and Performance Theatre**

To consider an initiative to include Dance and Performance Theatre, with Workshops sessions, which will focus on Healthy Lifestyles. This initiative has been progressed following a recommendation by one of the Councillors at a

previous meeting of the North East Area Council. After careful consideration of the data sets the problems of Obesity for young people at the Primary Schools was highlighted by the Councillors, and it was agreed that this should be the theme for the Dance and Performance Theatre working with local Primary Schools.

Additionally Dance and Performance Theatre and Workshops sessions, focussing on Aspirations for young people attending the ALC's was agreed as a theme to be adopted for additional productions at a senior level.

## **9.2 Junior Wardens Citizenship pilot programme**

To commission a pilot project with regard to the Junior Wardens Citizenship programme. It was noted that this initiative would include a strong Health and Wellbeing focus, and would also encourage young people at the Primary Schools to learn about active Citizenship and taking a pride in their local community.

## **10. Ward Alliance Finance**

**10.1** For further consideration the Area Councils now have the option to allocate up to £20,000 per Ward from the Area Council 2015 / 2016 budget. This is discretionary to each Area Council and the amount to be allocated is flexible up to the maximum of £20,000 per Ward. The Area Council's may choose not to allocate any funding to Ward level.

**10.2** If agreed, this funding must be allocated to the Ward Alliance and then be split: 50% to be used to enhance community capacity and volunteering (which is the same as the existing Ward Alliance Fund), and 50% to be used to fund local projects that the Ward Alliance considers a priority (i.e. these can be the purchase of physical improvements that do not require match funding with volunteer time).

## **11. Appendices**

Appendix 1: Commissioning Budget Financial analysis 2014 / 2015 to 2016 / 2017

Appendix 2: North East Area Council Proposed Initiatives and estimated costs

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